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Salome

Bernardino Luini (1475 ?-1533 ?)

Gift of Mrs. W. Scott Fitz, 1921

Salome with the Head of John the Baptist

SALOME stands with half-averted face, holding before her a large, shallow, pewter dish over which the head of the Baptist hangs suspended in the grasp of the executioner, whose left forearm appears above with rolled-up white sleeve and whose right hand below holds a weapon. Blood drips from the severed head into the charger. Salome's smooth skin with its almost swarthy glow of health contrasts with the hue of death that begins to overspread the face of the Baptist. His hair is a darker, hers a lighter shade of warm brown. Her dress befits a dancing girl: a heavy green mantle, pinned at the shoulder with a gold coin, over another mantle of red—both warm wraps that could be dropped, leaving her clothed for the dance in the diaphanous inner drapery that appears over her arm and about her shoulders. She wears a gold necklace with a cameo of Cupid and a gold tiara with a ruby set in gold, each studded at intervals with enormous pearls. Over her head is drawn a light hood of greenish-blue, from which her hair has freed itself in rippling wisps. Her look betrays unmistakably a weakening in her task. The picture is wholly a harmony of deep tones, its highest light centred, perhaps with expressive intent, on the forehead of St. John.

The subject was treated by Luini several times in varied ways (examples at the Louvre, Brera,

Uffizi, and elsewhere). The welcome gift to this Museum from Mrs. W. Scott Fitz ranks with the best of these pictures. Though Luini is not named with the two or three foremost Italian painters, he stands high in the next rank and is one of the best loved of them all. G.

Portfolio of Indian Art

From the Collection of the Museum

THE Museum possesses the most important collection of the art of India now existing in America. It is especially rich in Rajput and Mughal paintings, Nepalese paintings, illustrated Jaina manuscripts, Nepalese and Sinhalese bronzes, Indian colonial sculpture, textiles, and jewelry. A complete Catalogue is now in preparation by Dr. Ananda Coomaraswamy, Keeper of the Collection.

In connection with the Catalogue, of which the section on Sculpture will shortly be published with small half-tone illustrations, it is proposed to issue a portfolio of one hundred plates of objects selected from the whole collection. Of these plates ninety-six will be in monochrome heliotype and four in color by one of the best available processes. Each plate will be accompanied by a brief description containing a reference to the Catalogue. The sale price has been fixed at \$35.00, and it is expected to issue the volume early in 1922. Orders may be addressed to E. Weyhe, Bookseller, 710 Lexington Avenue, New York City.